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first and second cover sheets, said first cover sheet being an internal cover sheet facing toward the roof cover or wall cladding, and said second cover sheet being an external cover sheet facing away from the roof covering or wall cladding;

an intermediate layer made from a thermal insulating material disposed between said first and second cover sheets;

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a plane photovoltaic element disposed on said second cover sheet, said plane photovoltaic element being a flexible laminate and being joined along its entire surface to said second cover sheet by a cold-bonding adhesive so that heat is transferred from the photovoltaic element to the second cover sheet; and

an electric connecting cable connected to said plane photovoltaic element and extending through a sealed bore in said sheet metal panel.

Claim 6. (Pending) A sheet metal panel according to claim 5 wherein the plane photovoltaic element comprises amorphous silicon cells.

Claim 7. (Pending) A sheet metal panel according to claim 5 wherein the cold-bonding adhesive comprises a layer of bituminous material.

Claim 8. (Pending) A sheet metal panel according to claim 5 further comprising a closure to act as a vapor barrier disposed in or on said bore.